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INDONESIAN MILITARY OFFICER ADMITS GUERILLAS STILL FIGHTING FOR TIMOR INDEPENDENCE

Report on ABC National Radio news bulletin, January 16, 1983

"An Indonesian military officer is reported to have said that 500 rebels are still fighting for the independence of East Timor nearly seven years after the former Portuguese colony was annexed.

The Indonesian newspaper, Sinar Harapan, says the statement was made by Colonel (?) to a group of Indonesian journalists visiting East Timor.

The colonel reportedly said that rebels had about 100 firearms ... attacks on villages and traffic.

He said it is difficult to combat the guerillas because they easily disguise themselves among villagers sympathetic to their cause.

The only way to defeat them was to keep rebuilding the villages and houses they destroyed and wait for them to run out of ammunition and supplies. Eventually they would become tired of doing the same thing over and over and surrender."